



Lemhi County

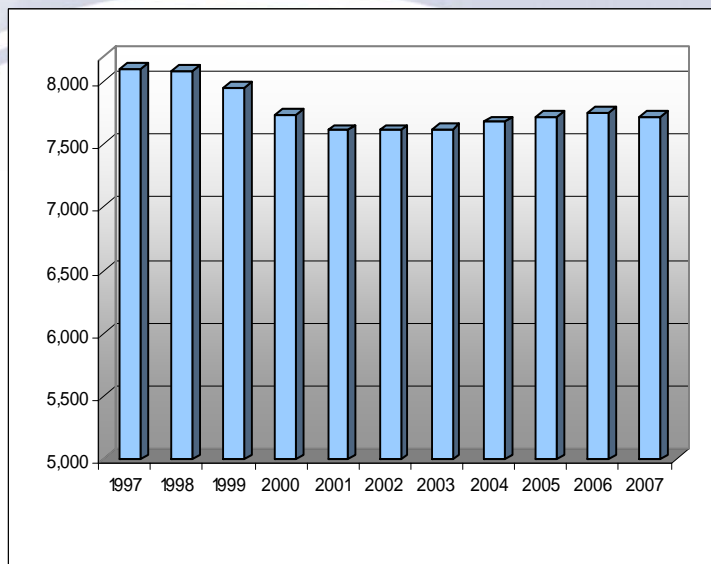
October 2008

Population

Lemhi County has been highly dependent on mining for most of its history. The county's population is ranked 32nd in the state at 7,717 in 2007, 378 fewer people than at its peak of almost 8,095 in 1997, reflecting some large declines in 1999 and 2000. Between 2002 and 2006, there was a steady increase in population totaling 140. However, a loss of 28 people in 2007 reversed the trend.

Mine closures left workers who were once used to a low cost of living and high salaries without their accustomed lifestyle. However, the Thompson Creek Mine in Custer County has taken on employees when commodity prices have made it feasible. Interest in selling and restarting mines is still a topic of discussion in the area. A strong push for economic development remains in the scenic county as a business incubation center, a large hospital and an impressive Sacajawea Educational & Interpretive Center were built in the past several years.

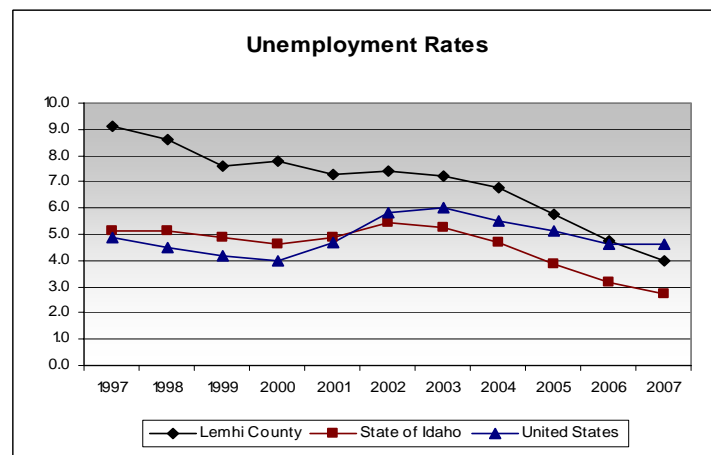
Work Force Trends



Labor Force & Employment

Lemhi County's unemployment rate was near 9 percent ten years ago, but it has decreased dramatically to 4 percent in 2007. With a current unemployment rate of 4.1 percent, the county is growing and defining itself with diversity that capitalizes on its strengths. Summer fires over the decade, some of which demanded national help, show up as peaks of employment. However, the county has rebounded with much support from residents and officials since that time.

As shown in the pie chart on page 2, government employs 32 percent of the county's workers. Over 90 percent of the land is owned by the federal government so land management agencies like the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and Idaho Fish & Game employ the most people. Many work in the agricultural sector, although that data is not included in nonfarm jobs. Total acreage for cattle is almost as high as total acreage for crops. Trade, transportation and utilities, along with leisure and hospitality, employ over 30 percent of the county's



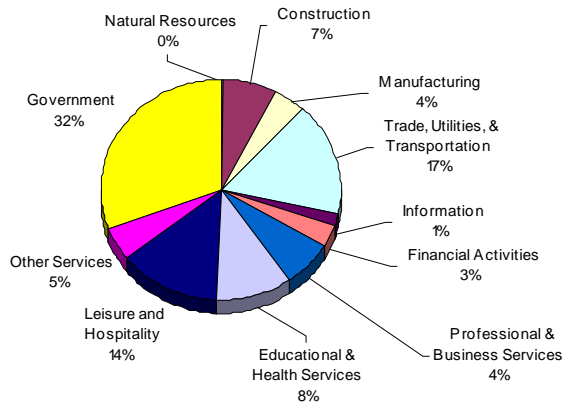
workers. Trade represents many jobs not only in food stores, restaurants and bars but also in auto dealerships. The county serves a large geographical area, including bordering states, for new and used cars.

Over the decade, leisure and hospitality increased employment by 24 percent or 75 people followed by education and health at an increase of 54 percent or 98 people. Professional and business services, manufacturing and government jobs posted the largest average annual wage increases for the decade. Overview and cleanup after mine closures and maintenance of government lands accounts for many jobs.

Labor Force	Sep 2007	Sep 2008
Civilian Labor Force	3,877	3,994
Total Employment	3,719	3,709
Unemployed	158	285
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.1	7.1
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.7	5.0
U.S. % Unemployed	4.7	6.1

Labor Force	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Civilian Labor Force	4,103	4,075	3,852	3,841	3,886	3,807	3,825	3,955	4,035	3,964	4,006
Unemployment	372	349	292	300	282	281	277	267	234	189	159
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.1	8.6	7.6	7.8	7.3	7.4	7.2	6.7	5.8	4.8	4.0
Employment	3,731	3,726	3,560	3,541	3,604	3,526	3,548	3,688	3,802	3,775	3,847

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2007



Covered Employment & Wages

Covered employment includes employers who are subject to state and federal unemployment insurance laws. These laws apply to approximately 92 percent of Idaho's employers.

Average employment by covered employers increased 158 jobs during the decade while wages increased over \$5,100. Per capita income has been steadily increasing after suffering a setback in 2002. The county is seeing gradual growth with heavy concentration on economic development.

Major Employers

Discovery Care Center LLC
Lemhi County
Idaho Department of Fish & Game
Q B Corporation
Salmon Public Schools #291
Saweway Market Inc.
Steele Memorial Hospital
U.S. Government

East Central Idaho Occupation Wages*

Average Wage

Agricultural Workers	\$8.47
Cashiers	\$7.79
Farmworkers, Farm & Ranch Animals	\$8.34
Food & Beverage Serving Workers	\$6.59
Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses	\$14.06
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants	\$9.03
Health Diagnosing & Treating Practitioners	\$27.60
Production Occupations	\$13.27
Receptionists & Information Clerks	\$9.67
Retail Sales Workers	\$9.52

* Wages include 15 counties of east central Idaho. Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor Web site at lmi.idaho.gov.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1997, 2006, & 2007	1997		2006		2007	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	2,541	\$20,179	2,661	\$24,582	2,688	\$25,327
Agriculture	34	\$18,629	53	\$23,048	28	\$18,815
Mining	179	\$40,536	6	\$50,485	*	*
Construction	157	\$20,736	182	\$23,507	196	\$27,234
Manufacturing	133	\$22,558	139	\$32,722	121	\$32,564
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	444	\$14,911	455	\$20,379	463	\$21,451
Information	39	\$15,522	42	\$13,829	39	\$14,831
Financial Activities	71	\$16,977	93	\$29,761	81	\$22,066
Professional and Business Services	104	\$17,715	6	\$25,187	*	\$27,975
Educational and Health Services	179	\$16,984	234	\$16,769	274	\$17,536
Leisure and Hospitality	308	\$7,807	399	\$10,494	376	\$11,435
Other Services	65	\$12,050	78	\$16,246	98	\$18,552
Government	829	\$24,895	837	\$35,201	819	\$35,954

Per Capita Income	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Lemhi County	\$17,953	\$18,689	\$18,984	\$19,696	\$21,186	\$20,662	\$21,441	\$23,101	\$23,212	\$24,636
State of Idaho	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,077	\$25,024	\$25,221	\$25,524	\$27,361	\$28,301	\$29,920
United States	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,843	\$30,574	\$30,821	\$31,504	\$33,123	\$34,757	\$36,714

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the office listed below:
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labor.idaho.gov

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